

my attention was called by Professor Beyrich. The larger spines along the dorsal line of the arms in the dried specimen are partly erect and partly depressed, which certainly could arise only from local differences in the shrinking during the desiccation of the specimen, but still produces an impression that the spines must have been moveable during life—a view which is further borne out both by the smoothness of the base of the spine and by that of the surface to which it is attached, although this is surrounded by granules, and from it even the dry spines may be very easily detached. Gray also describes the spines as mobile.

In living Oreasters of the Indian Archipelago, however, I have never noticed any mobility of the spines independent of their point of attachment, but I ascribed their convergence after death to the locally unequal shrinking of the entire surface; nevertheless in these Indian species I do not now find the spines so distinctly differentiated from their point of attachment as in the Central American species.

## 2. *Astropecten cœlacanthus*, n. sp.

Five arms; radius of the disk to that of the arms about as 1 to 3. Marginal plates twenty-four on each arm. Ambulacral papillæ in several rows, the outer ones larger, all somewhat compressed and obtuse. From the scaly covering of the ventral plates larger flat spines project everywhere, and near the margin especially these group themselves in rows parallel to the margin, consisting of three spines for each inferior plate; on the margin itself there is on each of these plates one spine. These marginal spines are small and flat in the interbrachial angles, as also at the apex of the arms; in the middle of the arms they are large, flat, slightly sabre-shaped, and bent round on the free margins in such a manner as to present a spoon-like cavity, directed downwards and backwards (that is to say, towards the interbrachial angle). The superior marginal plates are twice as deep as broad, densely granulated, with a few (2-4) larger tubercles, which stand in a transverse row, and of which the innermost (superior) especially are never wanting. The back, arms, and disk within these marginal plates are thickly set with paxillæ; in the middle of the arms this space is scarcely twice as broad as the height of one of the superior marginal plates.

Radius of the disk 17, of the arms 49 millim.; height in the middle 8 millim. Captured and sent with the preceding species.—*Monatsber. der Akad. der Wiss. zu Berlin*, January 1865, p. 56.

## *Occurrence of Calluna vulgaris in Newfoundland.*

Mr. Murray, late of the Geological Survey of Canada, and now engaged in a survey of Newfoundland, has brought to Montreal specimens of this plant, which were collected by Judge Robinson on the east coast of Newfoundland, near Ferryland (lat. 47°, long. 52° 50'), and which are stated to be from a small patch of the plant not more than three yards square.—*Silliman's Journal*, March 1865.